

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A hinge device for connecting one member and another member so that the hinge device allows opening and closing, comprising:

a movable shaft; a first bracket non-rotatably fixed to the movable shaft and fixed to the one member;

5 a second bracket rotatably and axially movably installed on the movable shaft and fixed to the other member; and

a plate spring member formed in a curved configuration, having at a top of the curved configuration of the plate spring member a projection whose surface in contact with the second bracket is flat, and non-rotatably and axially movably installed on the movable shaft,
10 characterized in that the second bracket and the plate spring member are pressed against and held in contact with each other and make relative rotation.

2. (Original) A hinge device for connecting one member and another member so that the hinge device allows opening and closing, comprising:

a movable shaft;

a first bracket non-rotatably fixed to the movable shaft and fixed to the one member;

5 a second bracket rotatably and axially movably installed on the movable shaft and fixed to the other member;

a plate spring member formed in a curved configuration, having at a top of the curved configuration of the plate spring member a projection whose surface in contact with the second

bracket is flat, and non-rotatably and axially movably installed on the movable shaft; and

10 a friction member rotatably and axially movably installed on the movable shaft, characterized in that the plate spring member and the friction member are installed so that the plate spring member and the friction member sandwich the second bracket and are pressed against and held in contact with the second bracket and make relative rotation with respect to each other.

3. (Currently Amended) A hinge device according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the second bracket, which is pressed against, held in contact, and make the relative rotation with the plate spring member, is provided with one or a plurality of recesses, holes, or cutouts in which the projection of the plate spring member drops, and that a tactile feel is generated
5 when the projection of the plate spring member is matched with the recesses, holes, or the cutouts as the second bracket and the plate spring member make relative rotation while pressed against and held in contact with each other.

4. (Currently Amended) A hinge device according to Claim 1 ~~or 3~~, characterized in that the plate spring member is non-rotatably and axially movably installed on the movable shaft so that the plate spring member sandwiches the second bracket from both sides.

5. (Currently Amended) A hinge device according to ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 1 through 4, characterized in that the plate spring member has at the top of the curved configuration of

the plate spring member at least two projections whose surfaces in contact with the second bracket are flat, with areas of the flat portions being different from projection to projection.

6. (Currently Amended) A hinge device according to ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 1 through 5, characterized in that the plate spring member is provided with a reinforcing plate spring member stacked on the plate spring member.